

BENEFITS

Reduced Flood Damages

- Stormwater storage projects to hold back stormwater during flood events
- Floodplain conservation to protect natural flood storage and conveyance areas
- Public-private partnerships to increase flood storage

Improving Water Quality

- Preservation and enhancements of stream buffers to filter stormwater
- Protection of streams and lakes through use of wetlands to filter sediments and pollutants
- Projects to restore degraded stream channels
- Grasslands and buffer strips in upland parks or open space to help filter pollutants from stormwater runoff

Recreation and Education

- Playing fields in low-lying areas that double as flood storage areas during large storms
- Water-oriented recreation opportunities
- Trails within stream buffers to connect parks and neighborhoods
- "Outdoor classrooms" and environmental education opportunities
- Bird watching and other passive recreation opportunities

Natural Areas and Greenspace

- Conservation of greenspaces that contribute to a high quality of life
- Protection of habitat

THE PARTNERS

Three major partners in the Rain to Recreation Program include the Watershed Management Division of the Public Works and Utilities Department, the Parks and Recreation Department, and the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District. The City has a long-standing interlocal agreement with the District to collaboratively address stormwater management issues. The partners also cooperate with other agencies as appropriate on a case-by-case basis.



Lincoln's Rain to Recreation program is modeled after a program by the same name developed for Lenexa, Kansas. Visit their website at www.raintorecreation.org.

For more information, visit the project website at lincoln.ne.gov, keyword: R2R.

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**A COMMUNITY
APPROACH**



The program goals are to:

- ♣ manage flooding and reduce flood damages
- ♣ protect water quality
- ♣ create recreational and educational opportunities
- ♣ prevent stream degradation
- ♣ realize multiple benefits from each project
- ♣ enhance Lincoln's quality of life

What is a watershed?

- ♣ A watershed, or "drainage area" is an area that is
- ♣ bounded by a ridge, with all
- ♣ the land in that watershed
- ♣ draining to a particular lake
- ♣ or stream. ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣

Stream corridors, natural areas, and open space provide great opportunities for managing stormwater and for enhancing recreation through the development of trails, playing fields, and passive recreational areas:

- ♣ Stormwater ponds or lakes can be used for both recreation and flood control.
- ♣ Wooded streams provide corridors for trails while serving as a 'natural sponge' to slow down and filter stormwater.
- ♣ Playing fields can double as low areas that store flood waters when streams rise out of their banks.
- ♣ Wetlands or prairies can be used in parks and open space to help filter pollutants from stormwater runoff before it reaches streams and lakes.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Rain to Recreation is a watershed approach to reduce flooding, protect water quality and natural areas, and provide for recreational and educational opportunities.



FLOOD CONTROL AND RECREATION

The Holmes Lake Restoration Project is an excellent example of a Rain to Recreation project having multiple benefits. Antelope Creek flows through Holmes Lake Park and is dammed to form a flood control lake. The project involved dredging the lake to remove built-up sediment, restoring fishing habitat as well as fishing docks and surrounding park amenities, creating wetlands for water quality to protect the lake and stream, and constructing a trail around the lake.

WETLANDS IN PARKS



STREAM AND TRAIL CROSSING RESTORATION

